

Introduction to construction of KBP

The task was,

- to develop a retrieval structure for Islamic law for *law libraries* and *the legal user* (e.g. law students, legal scholars, attorneys and other interested legal parties);
- to bring the new classes somehow in harmony with the older classifications on religion which govern now large collections at LC and elsewhere, in particular BP (Islam) and BM (Judaism);
- to correlate, content and number structure to the older schedules as close as possible, particularly to number ranges in such areas of schedules BP, to which the legal materials were referred by past practice; and finally
- to provide a vehicle for *local* collection decisions in distribution of large sets of sources and historic materials between the B and new KB subclasses.

To achieve this goal, hierarchies had to be constructed (or reconstructed) in a way that data from the the older class could be interfiled into the hierarchy of the new class in pre-coordinated (matched) numerical order, and with approximate or completely parallel subject arrangements. The observation of parallelity of concepts and features in related classes is nothing new and had lead already earlier during the law classification development to parallel alignments of classes. Comparative explorations in the area of law, religion, history and philosophy revealed as well many overarching concepts in subjects and sources different only by class (for example Marriage in classes B; HQ, and K), or by historic and ethnic/geographic provenance. Still, a historic outline for periods of sources, and periods of jurisprudence vs. history and political geography revealed, that complete parallelity or approximate alignment could most probably not be achieved.

The expectation to develop a methodical *law* classification in conformity with the overall structure of LC law classification seemed even more problematic, at least for Islamic law, since the system, similar to Jewish law, is not grounded in, or supported by, a central human authority. The central authority is God. Thus, the principle source of *law* is the **Qur'ān**, Hadith, Sunna, and other sources of evidence, the acknowledged as well as the disputed sources. Principles, fine points of the law, are elaborated and commented on by scholars affiliated mostly to schools and academies and observed according to weight of scholarly merits or tantamount authority.

Major arguments during the development of KBP have centered on just this character of the law - the prescribed religious observances, ritual law, etc. - as inseparable from religious practice itself. For this reason, *General Libraries* have argued against disruption collections on religion classed in BP (Islam) and BM (Judaism). For Law Libraries a different solution had to be found.

Thus , In developing this draft schedule, two existing classifications were utilized:

(1) For the initial part of the Islamic law classification, the number ranges 1-190 of Class *BP: Islam*, were introduced into KBP but parenthesized, i.e. as KBP(1-190) thus indicating that these numbers are not applied at LC.

This parallel classification, correlating content and number structure between the older schedule BP and the new schedule KBP is supported by extensive references. The new classification schedule introduces

- sources into a KBP collection - traditionally classed at LC in BP - in order to provide a broader collection base for faculty needs; as well as
- secondary literature reflecting current and comparative research on religious (ritual) law and historic developments, at LC also classed in BP.

(2) The uniform 5000 number civil law Table 4, created originally for the regional schedule *KL-KWX: Law of Asia, Africa and Pacific Area*, and applied to all the civil law jurisdictions located in the regions of Asia, Africa, and Pacific Area, was introduced as the pattern and number base for the arrangement of the *furu'al-fiqh* (branches of law and subjects) in KBP.

The parallel arrangements of subjects in several classes, which is achieved by application of uniform tables to a given region and jurisdictions in such a region, is essential in order to allow for :

- comparative research, for example, between Islamic law and the law of Arab or Islamic countries; or between Islam (BP) and Islamic law (KBP); and last, in the area of Islamic law (KBP) and Jewish law (KBM); hierarchies and number structures for all topics in these classes are by this device largely pre-coordinated (i.e. matching).

These particular design features proved useful in use of the online classification. Linkage of parallel parts of the schedules in combination with provided links to the bibliographic database, will allow for fast cross-class searches and retrieval of records/works of similar or comparative content which reside in the data base in the same numerical order, although under different LC classes.

Despite the fact that LC's collections on Islam and Islamic law are either polyglot or in Arabic language (both original and romanized script), the captions will be represented *first* in English and *second* in romanized (LC convention) Arabic. Again, in order to aid in retrieval of materials for (comparative) research, the English portions of all captions are presented under harmonized terminology where topics are rooted in, or related to, the same concept, but differ in ethno-cultural provenance. As typical for LC law schedules, all pertinent LCSH's were added to the caption. In alphabetic Cutter arrangements, the Cutter number will be assigned for the Arabic/Romanized term.

Notes on the current revisions

The below pictured structure of the KBP hierarchy reflects the form common to all Law classification schedules, and accounts for the evolving "modernism" in the scholarly "civil" law camp, but still being cognizant of the fact that Islamic law rests in substance and in principle on the **Qur'ān** and centuries of elaborations on principles by the individual schools. The specified order of presentation reflects LC policy in law classification concerning primary sources and secondary literature analogous to the fields of religion, history, and history of law in general.

BP Islam
History
Sources of Islam. Sacred books
Qur'ān
Hadith. Sunna
Practice of Islam
Jihād
'Ibādāt. Ritual law. Worship
Sacred times and seasons. Feasts and festivals
Sacred places. Mosques
Uṣūl al-fiqh., see KBP
Furu' al-fiqh, see KBP

KBP Islamic Law
*** (History)**
(Sources of Islamic law)
Alternative classification of sources for the study of both Islam and Islamic law
Qur'ān
Hadith. Sunna
Observances and practice of Islam
'Ibādāt. Ritual law. Worship
(Calendar. Sacred times. Fasts and feasts)
(Sacred places. Mosques)
Islamic legal schools. Madhāhib
Unaffiliated authors. By period
Authors affiliated to a particular school. By school
Uṣūl al-fiqh. Jurisprudence. Science of legal reasoning
Furū' al-fiqh. Substantive law.
Subjects of Civil law Table KL-KWX4(modified) are subarranged first by school, and under the school by author

* Parentheses indicate that the subject is original to Class BP.